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Letter dated 19 October 2009 from the Officer-in-Charge of the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith press statements which were adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 206th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 15 October 2009, on the situation in the Republic of Guinea and on the funding of African Union-led peace support operations and cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, respectively (see annexes I and II).

It will be appreciated if the text of the documents referred to above could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alice **Mungwa**
Officer-in-Charge

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Annex I to the letter dated 19 October 2009 from the Officer-in-Charge of the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Press statement of the 206th meeting of the Peace and Security Council

15 October 2009

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 206th meeting held on 15 October 2009, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for Guinea on the situation in Guinea, in the light of recent developments in the country and the results of the eighth session of the International Contact Group on Guinea, held in Abuja on 12 October 2009.

The Council strongly condemned the killings and the deliberate acts of violence against unarmed civilians and the raping of women by armed units under the authority of the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD) during a peaceful demonstration organized on 28 September 2009 at Conakry. The Council demanded that the de facto authorities in Guinea take all necessary steps to prevent the repetition of such violence and the deterioration of the situation. The Council also supported the call for the release of all persons detained and for respect for freedom of expression.

The Council endorsed the statement by the Commission issued for 29 September 2009 and the communiqué of the eighth session of the International Contact Group, in particular the invitation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in conjunction with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and AU with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to establish an International Commission of Inquiry to shed light on the events of 28 September 2009, so that those responsible are brought to justice.

The Council welcomed the forthcoming Extraordinary Summit of ECOWAS on 17 October 2009 to discuss the situations in Guinea and the Niger and looked forward to the conclusions of the meeting.

The Council reiterated its decision of 17 September 2009 to impose appropriate sanctions against the President of CNDD and other individuals, civilian and military, if by 17 October 2009 the authorities did not formally confirm the commitment of the President of CNDD that neither he nor other members of CNDD, nor the Prime Minister, would run in the presidential election, and to observe the neutrality expected of the junta in the conduct of the electoral process. The Council requested the Commission, in collaboration with ECOWAS and AU partners, to take the necessary steps with a view to finalizing the measures to be taken and the list of individuals to be targeted by the sanctions and to report to it thereon.

The Council gave its full support to the mediation efforts by President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, in conformity with the mandate given to him for that purpose by the Chairman of ECOWAS, in response to the request made by the

President of the Commission following the conclusions of the seventh session of the International Contact Group held in New York on 22 September 2009.

The Council agreed to meet again to discuss the situations in Guinea and the Niger, in the light of the outcomes of the Extraordinary Summit of ECOWAS.

Annex II to the letter dated 19 October 2009 from the Officer-in-Charge of the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Press statement of the 206th meeting of the Peace and Security Council

15 October 2009

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 206th meeting held on 15 October 2009, had an exchange of views on the funding of AU-led peace support operations and cooperation between AU and the United Nations in the light of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations, dated 18 September 2009 (A/64/359-S/2009/470).

The Council recalled its communiqué PSC/PR/Comm(CLXXVIII) of 13 March 2009, as well as earlier AU decisions and statements regarding the funding of AU-led peace support operations and the cooperation between AU and the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council stressed, once again, that the Security Council of the United Nations has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; that regional arrangements, in particular AU, have an important role to play in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations; and that support by the United Nations to the regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security, as provided for in the Charter. In this respect, the Council underlined that, in undertaking peace support operations, AU is acting on behalf of the Security Council and the larger international community, while fulfilling its own mandate and promoting the goals and principles of its Constitutive Act.

The Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General and expressed the readiness of AU to continue working with the United Nations towards ensuring predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for AU-led peace support operations through assessed contributions. In this respect, the Council reiterated that the report of the African Union-United Nations Panel marked an important step in the overall efforts to enhance the capacity of AU to meet the peace and security challenges facing the continent and to mobilize greater support within the larger international community, and every effort should be made to build on the recommendations contained therein and subsequent initiatives, including the United Nations support package to the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and the provisions of Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) of 16 January 2009 regarding the logistical support package to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM).

The Council noted the recommendations contained in the report with respect to the strategic partnership between the United Nations and AU, which provide a good basis for strengthening the cooperation between AU and the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council stressed the need for

an effective follow-up. The Council also noted with appreciation the recommendations regarding capacity-building for peacekeeping operations and requested the AU Commission and the United Nations Secretariat to work closely together for their effective implementation. The Council further requested the Commission to brief the African Group in New York on this matter.